

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 550
By West

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the officers,
employees and members of Welcome Wagon on
the occasion of their 70th anniversary as an
exemplary community service organization.

WHEREAS, Tennesseans have always been willing to extend themselves beyond the
call of duty to serve the needs of others, and this dedication to public service has resulted in the
appropriate appellation, "The Volunteer State", being conferred upon us; and

WHEREAS, Tennesseans are also renowned for their friendliness and gracious
hospitality, so it comes as no surprise that Welcome Wagon, the nation's oldest and largest
greeting service, was founded in Memphis, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, in 1928, Welcome Wagon opened its doors to serve the greater community
of Memphis, which fair city still serves as this worthy organization's satellite headquarters; and

WHEREAS, Welcome Wagon is named in honor of the fabled Conestoga Wagon of
frontier days which hailed from the community to offer sustenance and hospitality to the weary
traveler; and

WHEREAS, during the course of a year, thousands of dedicated and hard-working
Welcome Wagon employees visit millions of American families who are experiencing lifestyle
changes, including engaged women, naturalized citizens, growing families, people who are
moving and college students; and

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WHEREAS, in the true spirit of a good neighbor, the Welcome Wagon also helps to record and celebrate special occasions such as inaugurations, wedding anniversaries and elderly citizens' birthdays; and

WHEREAS, like the intrepid Pony Express rider of frontier history, Welcome Wagon employees and volunteers distribute extremely valuable community information to the households whom they serve, including letters of welcome from elected officials, an official state drivers' handbook, address change cards, information on state parks and recreational facilities, and other points of interest; and

WHEREAS, Welcome Wagon is also an excellent reference point and source for information on the Boy Scouts, the Girl Scouts, the Tennessee Heart Association, the Tennessee Performing Arts Center, Tennessee taxes applicable to the average citizen and museums throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, Welcome Wagon also provides gifts and coupons to ease the discomfort of new surroundings or to further brighten an already special occasion; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to those outstanding organizations that have evidenced their commitment to the community through meritorious public service; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and congratulate the officers, members and employees of Welcome Wagon on the occasion of their 70th anniversary as an exemplary community service organization and extend to them our best wishes for much continued success and prosperity in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.